

**JOB
SHEET**

Structure for Water Control

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



WHAT IS A WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE?

A water control structure is a structure in a water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, or maintains a desired water surface elevation.

HOW IT HELPS THE LAND

Water control structures are installed in water management systems, such as irrigation systems, wildlife management systems or wetland management systems, to control the elevation, discharge, distribution, delivery, or direction of flow of water in open channels or water use areas.

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

Water control structures may be used to conduct water from one elevation to a lower elevation. They may be used to control the elevation of water in irrigation ditches or manage water levels for wildlife or wetland management areas.

VEGETATION

All exposed areas disturbed during construction shall be established to vegetation according to Conservation Practice Standard, Critical Area Planting (342). Maintain vigorous sod by regular

mowing and fertilization. The first mowing should be after the nesting season. Do not burn or overgraze. Control undesirable weeds as needed. Follow label directions for use of pesticides.

MAINTAINING THE PRACTICE

Water control structures are part of water management systems. They must be operated according to the plan to achieve their desired purpose. (See Conservation Plan for timing of fluctuations of water level.) Inspect water control structures regularly, especially following heavy rains and spring runoff, or during periods of operation of the structure. Remove accumulated debris from the pipe inlet. Inspect the structure for excessive settlement or seepage. Inspect all components of the structure, including appurtenances, and repair or replace any damaged items as needed. Inspect embankments, emergency spillways, berms and appurtenant structures. Repair any damage to vegetated areas with compacted earth fill, reshaping, sodding, reseeding and mulching as needed. Control rodents or burrowing animals. Manage grazing to maintain an adequate vegetative cover and to reduce livestock trailing.

(Adapted from Oklahoma NRCS)